

Amel Mabrouk Békir about the climate change and civil engagement in Tunisia

What scares the people in Tunisia most about climate change?

The Mediterranean region is one of the »hot spots« of our planet and the impacts of climate changes are very pronounced, especially on its southern and eastern shores. Far from being exclusive to the area, this phenomenon becomes a reality for all of our societies, with consequences which are already very worrying and which are announced to be potentially dramatic or even irreversible. As a developing country, we do not have the means to meet climate change.

The hazardous impacts of climate change upon our planet, which affect citizens' health, are social, economic, and environmental:

- Deaths caused by cardiovascular and respiratory diseases: Air quality deterioration due to changes in temperature and precipitation can lead to various respiratory problems;
- Deaths directly related to extreme weather events, for example floods in the Alps;
- In October 2015, as a result of very heavy rainfall, Maritimes;
- Instable food supply chains related to extreme weather events.

Which are the vulnerabilities and risks, how will climate change potentially impact the key sectors in the country?

The global and national climate emergency, caused by the acceleration of climate change, was one of the main topics discussed at the conference. Nowadays, climate issues concern us all, not only experts, according to the Minister of Local Affairs and Environment. »Climate change is accelerating. There is a climate emergency. Biodiversity is threatened, as well as citizens' lives. In 2050, the rise in temperatures in Tunisia will be around 1.8 degrees compared to the 1990s if this phenomenon continues to grow«, he warned.

- Major risks are the threat of drought.
- The richness of marine products and resources is also threatened. Thus, we may speak about socio- economic repercussions, such as poverty and famine.
- Biodiversity is threatened, just like the daily lives of citizens.
- High carbon and excessive gas emissions threaten all organisms and human beings. This is why it is urgent that all social associations as well as all responsible parties must take part in the battle to fight climate change before 2050.
- Unemployment: economic crisis.

Tunisia recognized climate change in its (new) constitution, which came into effect in January 2014. How progressive is the government of Tunisia in addressing climate change issues compared to its neighboring countries?

Tunisia recognized climate change in its (new) constitution, which became effective in January 2014. The global and national climate emergency, caused by the acceleration of climate change, was one of the main topics that government has given importance to. Thus, the following article has been enacted to encourage anticipatory Democracy.

Article 139 Provides that »local authorities shall adopt the mechanisms of participatory democracy and the principles of open governance, to ensure wider participation of citizens and civil society in the preparation of development and spatial planning projects and the monitoring of the implementation, in accordance with the law«.

Does the government address environmental issues in cooperation with the non-profit sector/ NGOs?

The government addresses environmental issues in cooperation with the non-profit sector. In fact, in Tunisia there are two governmental agencies – the Agency for the Protection and coastal Development and the Ministry of the Environment – which are both responsible for the studies of projects and the implementation of sustainable strategies.

Tunisia has launched several projects to face these kind of threats, green energy will be used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In this same context, as part of a global 30/30 strategy, our country expects to produce 30% of its energy from renewable energies by 2030. Other programs will be implemented, such as the Solar Plan, which runs for 11 years. A total of 17 Tunisian projects will be presented at COP 25 by Tunisia. Tunisia's participation in COP 25 also aims to show that Tunisia has fulfilled its commitments to the Paris climate agreement – COP 21 – in the fight against climate change.



The good examples are the cooperation projects German Tunisian, project the islands of Kerkennah, North Sousse beaches, Tabarka, Mahdia and Zarzis as well as other projects in collaboration with Youth Science kerkennah Association, under the Slogan »Let's Act together for the Kerkennah and Djerba islands«.

Young people and climate change

Young people have always been engaged in meeting climate change.

Three examples:

- (1) Depollution de la plage de Sfax centre ville de Sfax
- (2) SIAP 2016
- (3) Projet Ambassadrice de maitrise de l'énergie et de l'environnement

1500 volunteer citizens cleaned the beach of the casino that had been neglected since 1978, and got rid of 35,000 tons of rubbish deposited there over the 40 years of closure of the zone.



Zone engagement Citoyen
Sfax-Tunisia



Volunteer work to clean the beach »Casino« July2015



See protection and healthy course creation



2 SIAP 2016

Moreover, 40,000 people signed a petition calling for the closure of the SIAPE plant and the adoption of sustainable development for the Sfax ville region and its neighboring delegations. The collective was able to expand its local and even national reach. This allowed to actively participate in negotiations with the leader of the government.



Mais aussi l'engagement citoyen



**Promotion du rôle des femmes
dans le secteur de l'énergie – PFE (GIZ)**



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AMBASSADRICES DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

ET DE LA MAÎTRISE DE L'ÉNERGIE SFAX

It is throughout the citizen's initiative of women ambassadors network for energy management/conservation that the civil society in sfax is mobilizing to join its efforts with the national agency of energy management.

Thanks to this citizen's engagement, the women ambassadors could implement the energy management awareness survey among 1500 households and 200 institutions as well as a series of sensitizing actions in primary schools in sfax. More than 40 women ambassadors have gathered in order to announce the formalisation of the network and identify the possible synergies with the networks of sousse and bizerte.



C'est à travers l'initiative citoyenne du Réseau des Femmes Ambassadrices pour la Maîtrise de l'Energie, que la société civile à Sfax se mobilise pour allier ses efforts à l'Agence Nationale pour la Maîtrise de l'Energie.

Grace à cet engagement citoyen, les ambassadrices ont pu mettre en œuvre l'enquête de sensibilisation à la maîtrise de l'énergie auprès de 1500 ménages et de 200 institutions ainsi qu'une série d'actions de sensibilisation dans les écoles primaires à Sfax.

Plus que 40 ambassadrices se sont réunies afin d'annoncer l'officialisation du réseau et d'identifier les synergies possibles avec le réseau de Sousse et de Bizerte.



عينك على الطاقة

Infos projet

Chef du Projet / GIZ : Mr Amin CHTIOUI

ANME : Mme Hélène BEN KHEMIS

Expert Consultant en Communication : Mr Kouraich Jawahdou

Experte Administrative et Financière : Mme Amira Karray

Experte Technique : Mlle Rihab Ben Yaghlane

Durée du projet : 14.6 au 30.10.2019





Photo of the ambassadors in front of the municipality of Sfax tunisia



Presentation of the project of the Ambassadors for the mastery of energy and the environment in Algeria: Ceremony of creation of the Magrebin project »to show the role of Women« on October 30, 2019. With the presence of Ulrike Knotz, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Algeria.

Conclusion

It is necessary to find real solutions for agriculture and the development of agro-industry, renewable energy... Tunisia has some natural resources and a considerable number of human resources that can take us to a better future. We have no choice but to remain positive despite the seriousness of the situation.



Association Health & Environment

The Association was founded in September 2011 and it was legally authenticated on 29th March 2012 in the official Journal N°38 .The executive elected members of the association, have always been keen on achieving the following goals ;

- To participate in widening the sphere of citizens' awareness through sensitizing them about the importance of protecting the environment.
- To uphold local and international associative relations that contribute to guarantee a better living-standard.
- To encourage research in both field ;Health and Environment and to advocate participatory democracy through offering equal chance for both woman and youth.

Amel Mabrouk Békir is an Environmental activist. She is interested in finding solutions to meet climate changes.

She is:

- Multimedia Educational Engineer and adult education research , University of Lille
- Head of Information Technology and Educational Innovation Center at the Faculty of Medicine University of Sfax;
- President of the Association Health & Environment since 2012;
- Executive Director of the Network of Women Ambassadors for Energy and Environment Management (PFE Project). 2019 The regional programme »Promoting the role of Women in the Maghreb« 2013. characterized by a transversal and innovative approach in co-operation that was held between the German Government and the Maghrebian countries;

- *Founder member of the Tunisian Federation of Environment and Development since 2014;*
- *Currently elected to head the Tunisian Federation for Energy Management and Climate Change 2020;*
- *Active member of the International Academy of Good Governance: Cooperating for Change with GIZ and Tunis National School of Administration.*

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Further Information: <https://www.facebook.com/associationsanteenvironnement>

<https://www.facebook.com/Ambassadrices-de-lenvironnement-et-de-l%C3%A9nergie-renouvelable-%C3%A0-Sfax-100114154688216>

<https://www.facebook.com/FTED-F%C3%A9d%C3%A9ration-Tunisienne-de-lEnvironnement-et-du-D%C3%A9veloppement-1571640319641899>

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